

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
HEW-04 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OIC-02 OES-06 IOE-00 /121 W
-----211657Z 047253 /45

P 211619Z APR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6719

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2955

E.O.11652: ADS, DECLAS 12/31/77
TAGS: WHO
SUBJECT: PRESIDENCY OF 30TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND 60TH
EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. MISSION HAS LEARNED IN DISCUSSION WITH WHO SECRETARIAT
AT ADG LEVEL THAT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE 30TH WHO ASSEMBLY
IS STILL AN OPEN QUESTION. THE POSITION THIS YEAR

NORMALLY FALLS BY "GENELEMEN'S AGREEMENT" WITHIN THE
WESTERN PACIFIC REGION. JAPAN AND THE PRC, WE UNDER-
STAND, WERE NOT INTERESTED. APPARENTLY JAPAN HAD
ORIGINALLY EXPRESSED INTEREST BUT HAS WITHDRAWN FROM
THE COMPETITION. WE DO NOT KNOW REASONS FOR PRC'S
LACK OF INTEREST.

2. OTHER LEADING CONTENDERS ARE FIJI, (MINISTER OF
HEALTH, KR. JAMES SINGH) MALAYSI, SINGAPORE AND TONGA.
IN WIEW OF ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE IN
FIJI ON APRIL 29, THE SECRETARIAT BELIEVES FIJI IS NOW
OUT OF THE RUNNING. THIS APPEARS TO BE CORROBORATED
BY MISSION'S CONTACTS WITH NEW ZEALAND, WHO INDICATED
DR. SINGH IS NO LONGER EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE 30TH
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY.

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3. CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (WHICH WILL MEET
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 30TH WHO ASSEMBLY) IS EXPECTED
TO BE DR. BUTERA OF RWANDA. HE WAS RECENTLY PROPOSED
BY THE YUGOSLAV MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND IS
FAVORED BY WHO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL LAMBO. SINCE
IT IS AFRICA'S "TURN," LITTLE OR NO OPPOSITION IS

EXPECTED.

4. MISSION UNDERSTANDS FROM NEW ZEALAND MISSION THAT
TURKEY HAS WITHDRAWN ITS CANDIDACY FOR AN
EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITION.

5. CONCERNING THE 31ST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN MAY
1978, MISSION INFORMED BY WHO ADG THAT EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEMBER AL-BAKER OF QATAR, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH
ONE OF WHO'S ADGS, HAD SAID THE ARAB MINISTERS OF
HEALTH WILL PUT FORWARD KUWAIT'S MINISTER OF HEALTH,
DR. AL AWADI, FOR PRESIDENT OF THE 31ST WORLD HEALTH
ASSEMBLY IN 1978.SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, HEALTH, NOMINATION, ELECTION CANDIDATES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA02955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: AS 19771231
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770139-0047
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770435/aaaabdhn.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5f5b0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2740877
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENCY OF 30TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND 60TH EXECUTIVE BOARD
TAGS: PORG, SWEL, WHO, (SINGH, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5f5b0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009